



## Warming prior to taking blood

Hot water in a glove is not to be used

### Situation:

Following reported incidents involving newborn babies, it has been found that in some areas staff are using gloves filled with hot water to warm the blood sampling site. In at least one case this appears to have caused a burn.

### Background:

Warming of the injection site is sometimes performed to increase blood flow to the area, particularly with blood sampling in babies.

### Assessment:

Use of the hot water in glove method can lead to burns due to the variable temperature of water from taps. Pre-mixed taps (without separate hot and cold controls) may produce water that is hot enough to cause burns, particularly in babies.

### Recommendations:

The use of hot water in a glove must immediately cease. If warming is required, suitable products designed for the purpose should be considered, such as warming mats.